

NIMBUS HATCHERY TOURS

Nimbus Fish Hatchery is owned and funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Fall 2009 through Summer 2010

For all organized groups wishing to visit the hatchery

RESERVATIONS MADE BY LOTTERY HELD MAY 11, 2009

Reservations by fax or mail only.

1. Construction of a second Hazel Avenue Bridge starts in April of 2009. The hatchery parking lot will be the staging area for the project. Only limited parking will be available in the normal parking lot. Directions to the temporary lot will be included in reservation confirmations and both self-guided and guided tours will start off site. Be sure to carefully read your confirmations.

2. This coming salmon season looks to be better than last year's. Thanks to the sacrifices of the commercial and sports salmon fishing industries, salmon should be returning to Nimbus Hatchery this fall.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery Visitor Center asks that schools and other groups make reservations for field trips to the facility during the busy season, November through January. The reservation system helps insure safe and educational visitation for all. Both guided and self-guided tours should be scheduled.

Guided tours are grade-level appropriate and address the natural history of salmon and/or steelhead, the reasons for the hatchery, how it works, management issues, and individual stewardship. Tours include a ¼-mile guided walk along the river and a 13 minute video about the hatchery (on non-egg-taking days). All **scheduled** groups are given food to feed to the fish. Tours take 60 to 80 minutes depending on grade-level. *Guided tours for preschool groups are available March through June.*

Salmon-related classroom activities are available on the DFG website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/projectwild/salmon.html> and <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/oceo/fishcity/publications.html>.

1. GUIDED AND SELF-GUIDED TOURS BY RESERVATION only

- ♦ **November (Tu-Fri)** Salmon are in the river. The fish ladder usually starts running during the first week of November, but river conditions can delay its opening until mid-November. Salmon are in the gathering pond once the ladder has opened. Egg-taking does not occur every day and is not on a pre-determined schedule but will be shown if it is occurring. Fish are allowed to go up the ladder only when needed for hatchery operations. Visitors rarely see salmon jumping up the ladder. Times when the ladder will be open are not announced in advance. Trout & steelhead in ponds.
- ♦ **December (Mon-Fri)** Fewer salmon in river & hatchery. Fewer days of egg-taking. Steelhead may be present. Yearling steelhead in Nimbus ponds & trout in ponds at American River Hatchery.
- ♦ **January through March (Mon-Fri)** Steelhead egg-taking on early Wednesday mornings only.
- ♦ **April through October (Mon-Fri)** Juvenile salmon in raceways through June and juvenile steelhead in raceways from May to January.
- ♦ No weekend guided tours.

2. OPEN DAYS– NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN – Mondays in November – Self-guided tours only

- ♦ Salmon egg-taking likely. The Visitor Center and parking lot may be very crowded.
- ♦ Staff will be available to answer questions but not lead tours.

3. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- ♦ No American River Salmon Festival this year – maybe next year
- ♦ The Visitor Center is open to the public from 10-3 Mon-Sun. It is closed on Dec 25. The exterior sections of the hatchery open at 7:30 am.

Meg Grow
California Department of Fish & Game
Visitor Services, Nimbus Fish Hatchery
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916.358.2884 **Please do not call the Nimbus Hatchery**

Please share this information with others who might be interested.